



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2023, No. 10

October 2023

It's Eclipse Time Jim Neff, WJ4M



The first of two total eclipses of the sun occurs Saturday, October 14th, 2023. There will be another one next year. These two the darkest and complete coverage of the sun will be visible in the vicinity of San Antonio and a bit west of town. What does that have to do with Amateur Radio? Well, when the sun is blocked out there will be dramatic changes in the ionosphere affecting radio propagation during the event. NASA is promoting a ham radio experiment for the eclipses to make QSOs and record the affect on signal strength. Information about that is here:

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2023/sun/science-in-the-shadows-nasa-selects-5-experiments-for-2024-total-solar-eclipse>

<https://hamsci.org/seqp-faqs>

It may be a good time to break out the field gear and the viewing gear and do two things at once.

Further, the Scobee Education Center at San Antonio College is hosting a community event and is inviting someone to set up a station to do some solar eclipse QSO gathering. The request has been out a while, and may be answered. In case there is room for more, contact Rick Varner, Center Director Scobee Education Center at San Antonio College, rvamer4@alamo.edu. There are several places holding viewing events. The main thing is to be safe.

The next meeting, October 12, 2023, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602. Program: Fox Hunting

Directly viewing the sun can damage your eyes. In this issue of the newsletter I've assembled such information as may be useful in the short time available to get things done before the event on Saturday.

There are various devices for safely viewing the eclipse. It may be too late if you haven't ordered by now. Here are a couple:

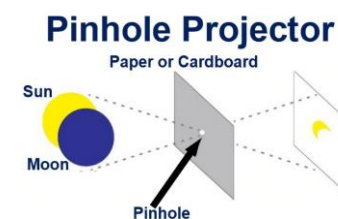


Magnifying viewer. I checked Amazon. This one won't be delivered in time for Saturday. It costs \$19.99 for a 2-pack. The cheapest and

fastest to get item is cardboard glasses. SAMSAT is giving free ones at their event (below). There are several examples on Amazon (I don't work for them). Be sure you get a version that is certified safe for solar viewing.



The simplest, safe device is the pinhole projector. Two pieces of cardboard with a pinhole in one, move them apart for a larger, inverted image. Use a piece of white paper for a "screen."



(Continued on Page 5)

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
10	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		October 2023
TO							

Hello South Texas,

The following is from John Douglas.

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually on the third full weekend in October.

JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. JOTA 2023 will be held at McGimsey Scout Park Cub Pavilion 10810 Wedgewood Dr, Castle Hills, TX 78213.

We will be operating from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM October 21st. Anyone wanting to operate a station will need to do the BSA Youth protection Training (YPT) and complete BSA Health forms.

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

Please reach out to John Douglas via email "jdouglas (at) csiinc.net"

Paul Guido, N5IUT
San Antonio Radio Club, President

Bexar Wire

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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

Meeting Minutes
7:00 p. m., September 14, 2023
Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentation – “It’s about time” – The history of measuring time and using time services in amateur radio, by Bill Craft, KD2HIQ. The slideshow will be available at the club’s website, w5sc.org.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no additions, corrections, or deletions, minutes were approved with change without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT – Upcoming eclipses, as announced in a recent emailed announcement. Ionospheric changes will occur during eclipses, which can impact radio propagation.

Vice President – Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW – Solicited members to sign up for presentations at future club meetings. This weekend the Texas QSO Party will occur. Encouraged members to jump in and try these opportunities.

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB – Minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April KI5CSK – Robert Rodriguez Scholarship Fund drawing on November 9, 2023. Still many chances to win valuable prizes at \$25/ticket.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – No activity since last monthly meeting. A brief BOD meeting is scheduled to follow today’s monthly meeting to address some requirements for the club’s banking.

Education and Training – David Finell, N7LRY – No report.

Emergency Communications – JC Smith N5RXS – Suggested transferring responsibility to Ned Lee KG5US, county liaison for RACES in Texas. Ned invited licensed hams (General license or above) to participate in EMCOMM.

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ – As of DATE: 9/5/23

Paid 159	New Members for 2023		
Mil 5	First	Last	Call
Family Members 21	Joseph (Joe)	LaBelle	WB5LCU
Radio Fiesta-Free 9	Gabrielle	Sepulveda	
Free-VE 3	Gegory	Eckert	
ARRL Members 113	David	Youngblood	
Total membership 198	David	Birnbaum	
	John	Olsen	

Web Site – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

1. Web Site – Posted newsletter
2. Groups.io – Club’s primary method of mass communication
 - a. Updated membership list
 - b. Updated calendar
3. Mail chimp- Meeting notice
4. Twitter
5. Facebook - Meeting notice

POTA - Jon April KI5CSK – No report.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed and posted to website on September 13, 2023. Invited members to contribute information and stories for the newsletter.

Field Day – Jon April:

Fox Hunt – Travis Few – For August’s fox hunt, 13 people came out. Upcoming September 23, 2023 Fox hunt at Phil Hardberger Park, 9 AM - noon. Email announcement sent September 9, 2023.

Finance and Review – No report.

JOTA – John Douglas W5NZK – No report.

Centennial Committee – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – Souvenirs (patches, challenge coins, pins) from the club’s 2019 centennial year are still available.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – Contracts signed for 2024 venue. Dates: 7/19/24 & 7/20/24. Dates selected for 2025, as well. Certificates of Appreciation for 2023’s Radio Fiesta were announced.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P – No report.

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – Created a blank inventory form for hams to track their gear for family members to use following the ham's passing.

Monthly Activities – Travis Few, N9EOD – N9EOD.com for information re: this month's fox hunt. He has equipment to lend, if needed. Balloon launch this Saturday from Georgetown N9EOD-11 on APRS for tracking.

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – Will be setting up the election committee for November election.

Scholarship Committee: Tom O'Brien – No report

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) – None.

New Business – None.

Announcements:

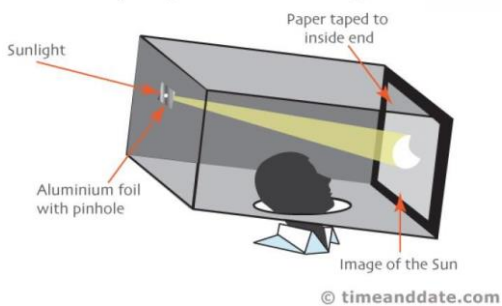
- On October 14, 2023, an annular solar eclipse will be visible in Texas, including San Antonio. Want to promote ham radio during the event? Go to <https://hamsci.org/eclipse> for ideas.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:21 PM

It's Eclipse Time (Contd. from Page 1)

The box pinhole version is fancier and you may be able to use one with a camera.

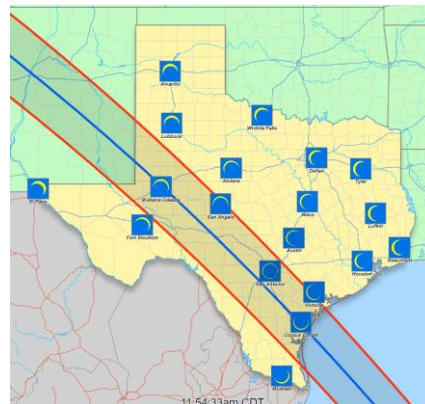
Pinhole projector using a box



I tried to order a filter for the camera too late. There are also cardboard filters you can fit over binoculars.

Whatever you get make sure it will comply with **the proper ISO 12312-2 safety standard**.

SAMSAT is hosting 'STEMclipse!', a family-friendly educational event suitable for all ages. This free event does not require registration, and **the first 500 people will be offered eclipse viewing glasses (while they last).**



Track of the Eclipse

FREE GENERAL CLASS

From: Bill Craft KD2HIQ

Date: 10/10/23 5:15 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: main@saradioclub.groups.io

Subject: [Special] [W5SC] FREE General Class via ZOOM begin Nov 2 - Signup now to register

Hi Everyone

We will take a week off after the Tech class and then start up the General Licensing Class on November 2.

Even if you have not passed the Tech exam yet you can sign up. Basically the last few weeks have laid the foundation for the material we will cover for General.

The General class license offers expanded HF privileges, which offers a lot more opportunities to enjoy the hobby.

DX-ing (long distance) and Contesting are two areas that come to mind.

Also, now that you have gotten used to spending every Thursday with us, why not continue? As before, we will also record all the sessions for those who are time-zone challenged or have other commitments.

Here is the information for our upcoming, free, live General Class Licensing course on Zoom.

Please feel free to share the following announcement on line or at your club meetings:

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio General Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, Nov 2, and will run through Thursday, January 11.

The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics

Museum. Prerequisite is to have or be studying for the Technician Class License. Please publicize this with anyone you know that you think would be interested.

Those wishing to sign up should email

Roland Anders, K3RA, at roland.anders@comcast.net



Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Team Lead:

Next testing session is on **October 28th at noon the Leon Valley Library.**

Pre Register (required) at **HamTest@w5sc.org**

Other info is at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then, "Testing."



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

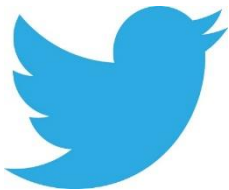
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.



Reminder: there are two active Twitter accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

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